FIFTH AVENUE THEATER .- " Man and Wife." NIBLO'S GARDEN.-"The Belles of the Kitchen." The Vokes Family. OLYMPIC THEATER .- "Gabriel Grub." STEINWAY HALL.-Concert. Wichiawski-Maurel.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE .- At 2:30 and at 8: Va-UNION SQUARE THEATER .- " Led Astray." WALLACK'S THEATER .- "A Man of Honor." Lester Wal-

NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.-Annual Meeting.

Buder to Adpertisements.

AMUSEMENTS—Third Page-5th and 6th columns.

BANKING AND FINANCIAL—Seventh Page-1st column.

BANKING-HOUSES AND BANKERS—Seventh Page-5th BOARD AND ROOMS-Third Page-3d column.

BOARD AND ROOMS—Third Page—31 column.
BUSINESS NOTICES—Fourth Page—15t column.
CHANCES FOR BUSINESS MEN—Second Page—5th column.
CORAINTESSIE NOTICES—Sixth Page—3d column.
COPARTHESSIE NOTICES—Sixth Page—3d column.
DANCING ACADEMIES—Sixth Page—3d column.
DENTISTEY—Second Page—5th column.
DIVIDERD NOTICES—Second Page—5th and 6th columns.
EUROPEAN ADVERTISEMENTS—Third Page—1st and 2d columns.

PINANCIAL Seventh Page 4th and 5th columns. CIAI SETTURE - Third Page - 2d column.

WANTED, MALES - Third Page - 5th column.

ES, CARRIAGES, HARNESS, &c.-Sixth Page - 3d

INSTRUCTION-Sixth Page-2d and 3d columns. INSTRUCTIONS—SIZER Page—10 and 30 columns.
LECTURES AND MERITINGS—Third Page—6th column.
LECTURES AND MERITINGS—Third Page—6th column.
LECTURES AND MERITINGS—Second Page—5th column.
MACHINES AND SEATE MANTELS—Second Page—5th column.
MARRIAGES AND DEATHS—Fifth Page—6th column.
MISCRIAN COURS—Second Page—6th column; Eighth Page—5th and 6th columns.

SIGAL INSTRUBIANDS—In The August 1987 And Augu

column.

SALES ET AUSTION—Second Page—5th column.

SAUNDS BANKS—Seconth Page—6th column.

SITUATIONS WANTED, MALES—Third Page—3d and 4th columns. FLIMILES—Third Page—6th columns.

SPECIAL NOTICES—FITTH Page—6th column.

STATIONALL—Second Page—5th column.

STATIONALL—Second Page—5th column.

STEAMERS, OCEAN-Third Page-24 column.

ACHERS-Sixth Page-3d column.

LET, BROOKLYN PROPERTY-Third Page-2d column
CTTY-Third Page-2d column; COUNTRY-Third Page-CITY—Third Page—2d column; COUNTRY—Third Page 2d column. To Whom II MAY CONCERN—Second Page—5th column.

Enginess Nonces.

BEST PLAN IN LIFE INSURANCE.-The all-BATCHELOR'S HAIR DYE is the best in the

Coughs .- A Medicinal Preparation, in the form of a lerence, is the most convenient. "Brown's BRONCHIAL Tuncatus" allay irritation, which induces coughing, giving relief in Bronchitis, Hear-eness, Influence, Consumptive and Asthmatic Com-

TERMS OF THE TRIBUNE.

DAILY THIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$10 per annum. SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$3 per an. WEEKLY TRIBUNE, Mail Subscribers, \$2 per annum. Advertising Rates. BUNE, 20c, 30c, 40c, 50c, 75c, and \$1 per line. DAILY TRIBUNE, 20c, 30c, 40c Weekly Tribune, 30, 30c, 30c, 50c, 75c, and 31 per line.

Semi-Weekly Tribune, 52, \$3, and \$5 per line.

Weekly Tribune, \$2, \$3, and \$5 per line,

According to position in the paper.

Terms, cash in advance.

Address. The Tribune. New-York.

Advertisements received at up-town offices, 54! W. Sed-et., or 308 W. 33d-st.; at the Harlem Office, 2,386 Fourth-ave., between 123th and 130th-sts.; and at the Brooklyn Branch Office, 323 Washington-st., next door to the Post-office, till 8 p. m., at regular rates. THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE will be ready this morning at 8 o'clock, in wrappers for mailing.

Advertisements for this week's issue of TRE Weekly Through must be handed in To-Day. Piles \$2 per line.

During the construction of the front of the new Tribune building. The Tribune Office may be found in the first building in the rear on Sprice 8. The Tribune Counting Room is on the first floor, and is entered at the second door down Sprice 4. From the old site.

New-York Daily Tribune.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1874.

The official correspondence in the Virginius affair is published. The negotiations were continued at Washington under the impression that Gen. Sickles had left Madrid. Sefior Castelar was asked to become a t Serrano's Cabinet, but he declined. Gen. will enter Ashantee territory on the 15th of January.

In the Senate yesterday the Judiciary Committee reported had, the House Bankruptey bill, with amendmente; the House Salary bill was discussed; Mr. Bogy addressed the S-nate on the financial question, favoring an inflation of the currency. In the House more that 100 bills were introduced and referred; the Army Appropriation bit, appropriating \$28,449,216, was reported and made a special order for sofay of next week; the Supplementary Civil Eights bill was taken up and discussed; Mr. Stephens of Georgia made a long speech, in which he admitted that his opposition sprung from no prejudice on ac-count of color. The House Committee on Railways and Canals has agreed to a bill regulating charges by rail roads for transporting passengers and freight. The Military Committee is about equally divided as to the course to be pursued in the case of Gen. Howard. The Civil Service Committee will begin an investigation on Wednesday to determine whether the business of the Government cannot be managed more economically.

President Grant had a conference with leading Repub lican Schators yesterday regarding the Chief Justice ship, and it is probable that Mr. Williams's nomination will be withdrawn in a day or two. === The Republican Assembly Caucus at Albany nominated Mesers, Husted and O'Donnell for Speaker and Clerk. === The Louisiana Legislature assembled and received Gov. Kellogg's message, which recommends a consolidation of the State debt. —— Mayor Cobb's annual message shows the net indebtedness of Boston to be nearly \$29,000,000. R. H. Rowland, Treasurer of Richland County, Onio, has absconded with over \$110,000.

A reorganization of the Board of Assistant Aldermen was effected by the election of a Democratic President in spite of the objections of the Republicans. Mayor Hauter in his message to the Brooklyn Board of than special legislation. —— Some of the masked robbers who have been plundering suburban residences were arrested. A letter thief was committed for trial. A murder was perpetrated in Morrisania, and a probably fatal assault took place in a bar-room. — A delega-tion of workingmen conferred with the Assistant Aldermen in regard to the scarcity of work. - Gold, 1111. 1114, 1119 Thermometer, 45°, 42°, 33°.

It is hoped that the series of brigand-like robberies that have been committed in this vicinity are brought to an end, at last. The arrest of a gang of thieves, yesterday, seems to bring to light a fair amount of evidence connecting the arrested men with the raids on New-Rochelle, Staten Island, and other places. These robberies were probably all the work of one band, resembling the land pirates of the notorious Murrell.

Gov. Kellogg's message to the Louisiana Legislature is not a cheerful document. With a debt of more than twenty-four millions to provide for, the financial situation naturally causes much anxiety, and the Governor confesses that further payment of the accruing interest must entail a taxation which will amount to confiscation. This is the result of the long misrule of an unfortunate State. The way out of it is not clear.

The French Court of Inquiry into the Ville du Havre disaster has acquitted Capt. Surmont of all blame in the matter. The British Court and previously exonerated Capt, Robertson of the Loch Earn. The French Court decides that the seamanship on the Loch Earn | that tragedy was we can hardly doubt any was contrary to the International Maritime longer. A suspicion has been expressed that spousible for its existence; but it must come

Code. These two decisions, then, clear the respective captains of the two vessels. Neither is to be blamed. We must expect that the inquiries are not yet ended. If neither Capt. Surmont nor Capt. Robertson is responsible for the disaster, who is?

A special meeting of the Bar Association is to be held this evening, to take action on the Bankrupt Law, and to consider the nomination of Mr. Williams as Chief Justice of the United States. An expression of opinion from the Bar of New-York on these two important subjects will command attention at Washington, and may be productive of great good. At any rate, the Association will do well to express itself freely upon the question of the Chief-Justiceship, in which the whole profession is so deeply interested. The call for the meeting is signed by Henry Nicoll, C. A. Hand, F. F. Marbury, Wm. M. Prichard, ex-Judge Howland, Albert Stickney, Wm. C. Barrett, John A. Foster. James P. Lowrey, Julien T. Davies, and others.

The President was greatly astonished yesterday, on going to the Senate to learn the reason why his nomination of Mr. Williams had not been confirmed, to find out that a good many Administration Senators in regular standing proposed to vote against him. He had thought that nobody except a few newspapers had any objection to the nomination. The fact that there are Senators who differ from him is a new one, and it may prove indigestible. But there are hopes entertained at Washington that he will withdraw the nomination. In that case an effort will be made to abolish the office of Chief-Justice to save the President the mortification of sending in another name. If this fails, the country will await with considerable interest the announcement of Gen. Grant's second choice for Chief-Justice.

There is nothing in the news from Spain this morning to modify the views we expressed yesterday in regard to the assumption of power by Serrano. It is stated that he offered a place in his Cabinet to Castelar, but it is scarcely necessary to say that the offer was refused. The change of Government appears to be generally acquiesced in throughout Spain. It is natural enough that the army should accept it, as the revolution was probably planned in concert with the leading commanders, and Serrano has always been the favorite military politician of the country. His accession is received with joy in Cuba, and the Peninsulars there are candid enough to give their rejoicings a true monarchical color. They have betaken themselves to regilding the crowns on the sterns of their vessels and to replacing the royal coat-of-arms on the public buildings.

The House bill to regulate rates of freight and fare on railways, agreed to in Committee, though simple enough in its structure, is a sweeping measure. Briefly, it proposes to declare all railways crossing States as commercial highways; this would place them under the constitutional regulation of Congress; and it is proposed to regulate fares and freight by the supervisory action of a Commission to be appointed by the President. Whatever may be said of the right of Congress to exercise such a power, the appointment of a Commission would just now be regarded with some suspicion. We have not been so fortunate in the matter of Government Railroad Directors and Commissions that such a Board would be regarded with popular complacency. Nevertheless, Mr. McCrary's bill is an honest and well-intentioned effort in the right direction.

The nomination of Mr. Husted may be fairly taken, we suppose, as a triumph of the Weed element of the Republican party, as against the Ring managers, who have lately aspired to the control, and an indica-tion of the widening breach between against the principle which underlies it. the two. Mr. Weed first thought it Courts at law sometimes become instruments necessary to administer a decided rebuke to of oppression. Shall we, therefore, abolish the ambitious persons who had gained control | the courts? A clause in an ancient statute, as of the party organization, by bringing their plans for the last State campaign to give a last resort to innocent men who might confusion through the nomination of Gen. have been convicted on technical grounds. Dix. His old friends seem now to Under that clause, to all intents and purposes, have given, quietly but with great decision, the laws relating to one class of offenses have their response to the warm recommendation been made inoperative. The whole matof Mr. Prince for the Speakership by Senator ter of adjustment bas been taken Conkling and Mr. Cornell. It is undeniable that Mr. Husted has many qualifications the Speakership, and take him for all in all, is perhaps the most acceptable parliamentarian available. As a reformer he is pretty certain to maintain at least as high a standard as the Assembly over which be is

to be chosen to preside. The President has sent a message to Congress in regard to the Virginius matter, which, while it adds nothing to the information already in possession of the readers of THE TRIBUNE, is a succinct and intelligible statement of the course of the negotiations between the two Governments, and of their resalts. There is little that is new in the accompanying documents excepting those which relate to the resignation of Gen. Sickles. From these it appears that when Gen. Sickles. presented at Madrid the demands of the United States in accordance with his instructions from Washington, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Senor Carvajal, was seized with one of those attacks of Españolismo so common among politicians of his race and flatly refused the reparation demanded. This attitude having been assumed in Madrid for the purpose of affecting public opinion there, the Spanish Government simultaneously sent a conciliatory dispatch to Washington evincing a disposition to accede to the American demand. Secretary Fish, who was not so oppressed by a sense of dignity as Senor Carvajal, immediately opened negotiations with Admiral Polo and carried them through to the end. When the matter had been concluded, Gen. Sickles, feeling that his usefulness had been seriously impaired by the course the negotiation had taken, tendered his resignation, which after some delay was insisted upon and

finally accepted. The singularly winning and amiable character of Ralph Keeler is admirably sketched in the graceful letter from Mr. T. B. Aldrich which we publish this morning. The quick penetration and ready sympathies of Mr. Aldrich discerned in the young author of Vagabond Adventures" a nobility of nature which the world did not suspect, and a promise of which few even of Ralph Keeler's closest friends seem to have been aware. The tragedy on board the Cienfuegos cut short a life which ought to be long remembered for its inspiriting lessons, as well as its brilliant and now ruined hopes. What

temporarily deranged. For this belief there tute private whim for public law. seems to be no foundation whatever. It is inconsistent with all that we know of his temper and disposition, and with all that we learn of his conduct at Santiago from the officers of the Juniata and other Americans with whom he was in frequent intercourse. He seems to have exposed himself rashly to the suspicion of the Volunteers by his zeal in the service of THE TRIBUNE. He mingled constantly with the Spaniards, talked with them freely, and reported that he had obtained a great mass of valuable and even startling information which it was unsafe then to commit to paper. Doubtless he was closely watched all this while, followed on board the steamer, and murdered-whether for his politics, or his profession, or his money, will perhaps never be known. Our excellent Consul-General at Havana, Mr. H. C. Hail, has shown the greatest energy and kindness in the investigation of the mystery, and we cannot doubt that everything possible will be done by him and the consular officers at Manzanillo and Santiago to solve it.

TREASURY COMPROMISES.

It is high time that a thorough examination were made into the practices connected with the compromising of suits instituted for alleged infractions of the revenue laws. Probably most people will be amazed to see upon how slight a foundation rests the authority by which the Treasury Department reviews the proceedings of every revenue officer in the land, brushes aside the proceedings of the Rodorat Courts, and overrules the decisions of the highest judicial officers in the Republic. In the collection of customs especially there are numerous pitfalls for unwary feet, as well as numberless loopholes by which dishonest importers may escape from justice. Early in the history of the United States it was provided that final appeal in certain cases might be made to the Secretary of the Treasury, so that persons who had innocently transgressed the law might have a final hearing where the facts would be reviewed by the light of common sense and the equities involved. By a statute of 1797 it was provided that, after the United States District Court had decreed a fine, forfeiture, or penalty, the defendant might carry up his case to the Secretary of the Treasury. This was distinetly understood to be a provision which should cover all cases in which new evidence might have been discovered, or in which extenuating circumstances, not admissible in a court of justice, might be urged. But, that the dignity of the law might be in no way offended, it was expressly provided that all proceedings should be based upon those already held in the courts where the case had been already determined. The statute to which we have referred provides that the claimant must notify to all persons interested his intention to appeal to the Treasury Department; he must petition the U.S. District Judge, who shall institute summary inquiry into the case; all the papers must be sent to the Secretary of the Treasury; and that functionary may remit or mitigate the fine, forfeiture, or penalty, "if, in his opinion, the same shall have been "incurred without willful negligence or in-"tention of fraud in the person or persons "incurring the same." Upon this comparatively slight foundation has been reared the prodigious fabric known as the Custom-house compromise system-a system which compromises with fraud, puts a spy in every merchant's counting-house, creates a brood of avaricious informers and special agents, and makes it possible for the most honest importer to become involved in a web of fine entanglements from which there is no escape but by conviction for constructive offenses or by paying a tribute which is itself a confession.

To say that this state of facts is chargeable to a protective tariff is childish. An abuse of we have shown, was originally intended to out of the courts and lodged in the Treasury Department. More than this, it has been put into the hands of irresponsible men, who are not publicly known at all in the case. No intelligent person supposes that the Secretary of the Treasury examines the details of a case involving a few thousand dollars and many nice constructions of law and Treasury regulations. Subordinates in the Department, the deeply interested seizing officers and District-Attorney invariably fix up the particulars of a compromise. These are accurately adjusted to the means of the struggling victim and his anxiety to escape from further persecution. In some instances there may be a review of the proceedings in the courts; generally, however, the motion for a compromise goes straight from the first seizure to the Treasury Department. A spawn of gobetweens, "influence-men," and shysters surround the avenues through which the decision of the Secretary must come. Within the past twenty years a new race of "lawyers" has been born; it is the business of these practitioners to "get cases through the Treasury.' Every importer who has fallen into the evil net of the informers and Special Agents knows the mysterious men who reach through the law office of the Treasury Department to the pen that signs his release or writes out the price of his ransom. And a large share of the money exacted of the ensnared importer is divided among these

harnies. An open trial and oral decision in a court of justice carry with them a weight of dignity and influence which should satisfy all who see and hear. Under the later practice of the Treasury Department proceedings for the recovery of moneys alleged to be due the Government are conducted in secrecy; none know how the decision is reached, and society is not satisfied whether the defendant has been fairly convicted or simply fleeced. A single error in an invoice will forfeit the whole invoice, which may be of immense value. The Treasury Department, given a brief license in such a case, insists that the courts shall not determine whether this was willful negligence; it seizes upon the whole case, and, after indescribable delays and communings, a final dictum is pronounced. If it were not more profitable to the seizing officers to draw these proceedings out of the courts than to leave them there for decision, this demoralizing and oppressive practice would cease. It has grown up silently and unobserved; no one Administration is directly re-

Mr. Keeler threw himself overboard while to an end, unless we are prepared to substi-

PHILADRLPHIA.

The best field for beginning the campaign of reform which is indicated by everything in the political world, is the State of Pennsylvania. In fact it is already begun there. The popular interest displayed in the vote upon the new Constitution and the enormous majority by which it was carried shows clearly that where the people have most suffered through political corruption the value of political integrity is most appreciated. The most important clause of that Constitution, in its bearings upon the politics of the State and the nation, is that one by which the October elections are abolished, and that vast incentive to corruption taken away. During this month there are important municipal elections to be held in Pennsylvania. The one upon which the gravest consequences depend is, of course, the one to be held in the City of Philadelphia. It is there that the combination of trading politicians who so long held the State in their grasp has been most impregnably fortified. Their frauds against the treasury and the ballot-box have been more shamelessly and defiantly committed there than anywhere else.

But even in Philadelphia the recent elections showed a life and activity of the public conscience which gives the greatest encouragement for the future to those who sincerely desire reform. The election for Mayor this month therefore assumes exceptional importwill be a great point gained in the fight which is not far off. It is highly necessary that there shall be no mistakes made in this opening trial of strength. There will be none made, if the good citizens of Philadelphia, who prefer honesty and good government to mere party wranglings, who want a man of capacity, of proved patriotism and public spirit, of national reputation and unquestioned integrity, to give force and character to the administration of their municipal affairs, will come together, nominate for Mayor and elect John W. Forney.

THE LATEST OUTRAGES IN BROOKLYN. "It is safer to commit crime in Brooklyn than to expose corruption there." When this language was addressed to Gov. Dix a few days ago by Col. A. C. Davis in his argument against District-Attorney Britton, it was smiled at as an exaggeration natural to the occasion and argument, if not indeed wholly untrue. But occurrences subsequent to that utterance furnish proof that it was neither untruth nor exaggeration. Since he spoke what are now proved prophetic words, two plots have been concocted in Brooklyn to imprison one person and to assassinate another, for no other offense than the exposure of corruption there.

A subordinate writer of this journal was lately imprisoned for refusing to give the name of the author of an article denouncing the Brooklyn Ring, and though regularly released on habeas corpus, he has been again summoned to court on the same proceedings, forced to take a position which Brooklyn Ring judges pronounce contempt of court, and will doubtless be again sent to jail.

Happily the other, which contemplated assassination, has failed as by a miracle. The facts of the attempted assassination of Judge S. D. Morris were narrated yesterday; and we commend their careful study to all residents of Brooklyn, that they may understand what a desperate class the corrupt courts and District-Attorney of Kings County, by their failure to punish known and indicted criminals, have encouraged in the "City of 'Churches." We do not pretend for a single moment to intimate, as some do, that this diabolical attempt at assassination of a citizen active in the exposure of the corruption in office of Mr. Britton was a direct result of the investigation. We shall not for the present accept even the theory advanced that the attempt was instigated by the men whose guilt was exposed by the late investigation, for there is no proof of any such thing. But it cannot be denied that the first thought of every man who knows how relentlessly Judge Morris has for two years pursued the rufflans whom he as District-Attorney indicted for fraudulent voting (and whom his successor has as persistently protected) will be that some person or persons of this class instigated his attempted assassination. It is idle to talk of personal enemies resorting to such deeds; it is to mistake human nature to suppose that some person convicted by Judge Morris has thus sought his revenge after his release from prison. This crime was the work of men who fear rather than of those who have suffered

conviction. But by whom done or by what motive instigated, no man can shut his eyes to the fact that the tendency of the administration of the laws under District-Attorney Britton has been to encourage the desperate and criminal classes. Two years of Britton have made this attempt at assassination possible in the quiet city of years ago; it has come to this terrorism through a regular gradation of crime from ballot-box stuffing to murder, and all in two years. One year of vigorous prosecution of the same class in New-York by District-Attorney Phelps has made New-York safer to-day than its suburb. The contrast between the fruits of honest administration here and corruption in office there is too glaring to be lost on the people of the two cities now struggling for reform.

MUNICIPAL CHANGES.

Brooklyn has cause for congratulation in the auspicious opening of its new municipal era. Mayor Hunter's message is a manly and business-like document. It is characteristic of the improved tone which Reform has infused into Brooklyn politics, and strikes the keynote, let us believe, of the new administration. Mr. Hunter is naturally prompt to call a halt in the steady march into municipal insolvency; he makes up a compact statement of the city debt, and showing how formidable it is, he advises that rigid economy be enforced now, and that there shall be no further increase of the public indebtedness. This protest of the Mayor must not fall upon unheeding ears; it is enforced by illustrations and arguments too powerful for objection or cavil. He shows, too, that much of the present oppressive debt of the city is due to special legislation, and hat such vicious law-making is partly chargeable to public neglect. It is pretty clear that the new Mayor is in favor of self-government, and that he will give small comfort to schemers who are after jobs through special commissions and other political plans of corruption. In our own city we have to chronicle a

curious overturn in one branch of the City Government. The Democrats in the Board

restive under the rule of their political adversaries. They have quietly organized coup d'état, and yesterday succeeded electing a Democratic When the Board was organized in 1873, it was understood that "the era of good feeling" had arrived and that political divisions were temporarily waived. This has passed away and the party in power to-day is that which was left in the minority at first by a combination of some of its members with the Republicans. It is evident, then, that the Democrats are to have the responsibility of that branch of the Municipal Legislature at

least. A writer known as a New-York correspondent of The Boston Journal has plunged into a pamphlet setting forth the various excellences of President Grant, and the consequent propriety of giving him a third term. In the first place, "Gen. Grant is one of the most intelligent talkists of the age;" he is one of the "ablest rulers" in the world; he "puts on no airs;" "he reads daily seven newspapers, and has the digest of 30 darly prints laid before him;" he is 'reticent"-in spite of being "an intelligent talkist:" he is not fond of ovations; he has managed an immense debt with "marvelous skill;" "all Presidents" have put their relatives in office "more or less;" "from the earliest civilization nations have rewarded conquerors"-therefore Gen. Grant may take presents. It is a pity that these apt and ingenious reasons for reëlection should be buried in the Rev. Burleigh's pamphlet; we give them a chance to be seen.

Here is another awful example for the anti-tobacco nen. At Columbus, Ohio, a bank robber had successfully broken and entered, when he conide't resist the temptation of taking a pinch of snuff. His sneeze betrayed his presence; and they don't allow soulf in the penitentiary, either.

THE AUTHOR OF "VAGABOND ADVEN TURES,"

A TRIBUTE TO RALPH KEELER BY T. B. ALDRICH. To the Editor of The Tribune.

SIR: The mystery which surrounds the last hours of Ralph Keeler-suggesting every kind of tragic hypothesis, but leaving the tragedy, if there were any, untold-has touched the sympathies of many who were not, perhaps, familiar with the man or his writings. It may not be out of place here for me to speak briefly of both. At all events, I would like for the sake of old comradeship, to say a few words about Ralph Keeler in these columns, to which he gave the last labors of his pen. It was in the Summer of 1868, if I remember, that

Mr. Keeler came to me with a letter of introduction from a friend in California. He was at that time very slight and boyish of figure, with that flourish in manner and conversation with which a certain kind of shy man always fails to blind one to his slayness. He was, in fact, at once curiously shy and aggressive. His instantaneous assumption that I was deeply interested in all his affairs was so fresh a trait of character to me that I lacked the heart to dispel his illusion until it was too late; for I ended by becoming very deeply interested.

After remaining in Boston three or four weeks Mr. Keeler departed abruptly. I heard of him from time to time delivering lectures in various towns, East and West, but did not see him again until the following year, when he returned to Boston, and finally made his home in Cambridge-if it can be said of Keeler that he made his home anywhere. To state it correctly, he secured a room in the old University town, and occupied it at irregular intervals during the next five or six years. It was at this period that professional work and inclination brought us frequently in company,

Keeler came of an excellent family I believe. In one of the early chapters of his "Vagabond Adventures" he hints as much, in a half deprecatory way, as if it were not becoming in a vagabond to have too respectable antecedents. He hints at it darkly, so to speak. Of his early life, which was a singularly sad one, this book appears to be a faithful account. The story, as I have heard it from his lips, does not differ in essentials from the printed narrative. It can there be seen that Keeler, who was born in Ohio, lost both his parents in his infancy, and at his tenth or eleventh year found his surroundings so intolerable that he ran away from the home provided for him, and never returned to it. "I gave up," he used to say, "what I have ever since been struggling to gain." Not that he regretted this particular home. "It is due," he writes, "to both of us-the home and myself-to observe that it was not a very attractive hearth I ran from. My father and mother were dead, and no brothers or sisters of mine were there,-nothing at all, indeed, like affection, but something very much like its opposite." This is the only bitter passage in the book, throughout which the light-heartedness is pathetic. He escaped from the house in Buffalo at night, and secreted himself in a neighboring stable until he obtained a place as steward's assistant on board the steamboat Diamond. Then began the little vagabond's adventures,-a squalid life among wharves, and steamboats, and railway stations. First he is cabin-boy on board the Baltic; then

train-boy on the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad, selling economically-composed and fatal lemonade; now he is the infant phenomenon of Kunkel's Band of negro minstrels; now he is end man in Johnny Booker's Ethiopian Troupe; now he is drifting down the Mississippi, with sacred wax statuary and stuffed animals, in Dr. Spaulding's Floating Palace; now we find him with that burnt cork washed off-miraculous transformation! studying the classics in St. Vincent's College, at Cape Girardeau, where he remains sixteen happy months, and picks up enough pure French to last him a life-time Now he is clerk in the Toledo Post-Office-something of a come-down, we should say, though still a man of letters—and now he is steerage passenger on an English steamer, heading for Queenstown. From London he goes to Paris; thence to Heidelberg. He is a student in the famous Karl Rupert University, and wins his diploma, too, (this end man,) making pedestrian tours meanwhile through Italy, the Tyrol, Switzerland, France and Bavaria, wearing the costume and speaking with the accent of a veritable Handwerksbursch. All this Mr. Keeler has related himself with a

fidelity which I suspected at first. Especially did I suspect the negro minstrel portions of his autobiography, until one or two of those same old minstrels turned up in my presence and hailed with decorous and subdued joy the infant phenomenon of other days. How many boys, I wonder, placed in Keeler's circumstances, would have graduated at Heidelberg ! Fate evidently intended to make a worthless fellow of him; he scorned Fate, and made gentleman and a scholar of himself.

On returning from Europe, Keeler went to California. Of his career there I know nothing. I believe he wrote for the San Francisco press, and I think he told me he taught French and German for a while in some academy. In 1868 he came to Boston, as I have stated. He went abroad again in 1972. remaining about eight or ten months.

In spite of his varied knowledge of life-gained in those long and curious pilgrimages beyond the sea as well as by extensive travel in his own land-Mr. Keeler retained in many things the innocence and simplicity of inexperience. His unworldliness and want of tact, socially, often led conventional people to underrate his sterling qualities. He had a hundred small faults in this sort, but looking back upon them now, I see how they were more than atoned for by an amiability so unforced and sweet that it could have flowed only from a loyal and generous beart.

I never knew a man with so little bitterness in his nature. His childhood, as we have seen, was marked by neglect and cruelty; adverse fates must have rocked his cradle; he was adrift upon the world when he was only ten years old. The world is a hard step-mother for strong men and women-but for a little child! He suffered cold and hunger, and knew none of the pleasures of boyhood; he had no boyhood. He was a little sharp-faced old man from of Assistant Aldermen have always been I the first; it was only afterward that he oraw conner.

Human nature must not have seemed to him bubbling over with sympathy and kindness in those days; but he cherished no resentment. He never lost his faith in the goodness of human nature. He remembered, with an excess of gratitude, only the persons who had been kind to him when he was a waif.

His early harsh experiences left their traces upon his character, of course. He owed to his gipsy life among minstrels and circus folk a whimsical habit of looking at men distinguished in literature or in art as successful showmen who had had a remarkably attractive programme to start with, or had managed their little wax-works with great cleverness. He was fond of classifying popular authors, assigning them to various lines of business in circuses and theaters and menageries. "There's Blank, now," he once said to me, mentioning a well-known and rather heavy didactic novelist, "he is doing the moral elephant." Keeler was only half in earnest in the matter; but he was half in earnest, and it often prevented him from doing serious work. He was, however, outgrowing this cynicism, and passing beyond the influence of other delusions engendered by the hardships of his youth. He saw his way clear to something like success. He had only to acquire the habit of systematic and continuous labor-which his rambling existence had hitherto made antagonistic -to reach an enviable rank as a journalist or as a

litterateur. It was, however, as a journalist, and more especially as a correspondent, that he had given the most promise. His letters from the South and West, contributed to Every Saturday, in 1870-1; his recent article on Geneva, in Harper's Magazine, and lastly, his letters to THE TRIBUNE, from Cuba, all evince that quick eye and sympathetic pen which made his services as special correspondent so valuable.

Mr. Keeler published only two books, so far as I am aware—a boyish novel, "Gloverson and his Silent Partner," of which he was soon not proud, and 'Vagabond Adventures," a very entertaining volume, though that, too, fell below his subsequent standard. At the time he left Custar, Ohio, to assume the post of Cuban correspondent for THE TRIBUNE, he was preparing a work on John Brown, for which he had gathered a mass of fresh material illustrating some striking and little known passages in the life of the old hero. I infer from a letter which Mr. Keeler wrote to me in September last that he had nearly completed the book. The manuscript is probably in the possession of his brother, at Custar, in whose house Keeler was always a welcome guest. He had room there, which he was accustomed to occupy when he was engaged in work requiring quiet and seclusion. The mention or several sketches of character or travel contributed to various magazines, a translation of George Sand's Le Marquis de Villemer. and a number of brief book reviews in The Atlantic Monthly, completes the list of his publications. He was not a voluminous writer, and nothing he wrote was so remarkable as his personal experience, or so interesting as himself.

We honor the man who, starting in life a poor and friendless boy, becomes through his own exertions a millionaire-a millionaire, and nothing more What honor then should we pay to a man like Ralph Keeler, who, without aid or example, lifts himself from out the most demoralizing associations, works, starves, struggles for culture as men struggle for gold, and wins at last a noble foothold, the master of five or six languages, and the possessor of a store of general knowledge that would put to the blush eight out of ten college-trained men?

He has left behind him neither book nor verse that adequately represents his ability. He has, perhaps, done better than that—he has left us the herois example of a man who might have evaded danger without incurring any special reproach, but who preferred to face death rather than shrink from the duties he had assumed. THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH.

Cambridge, Mass., Jan. 3, 1874.

POLITICAL NOTES.

Gov. Whyte's friends in the Maryland Legisature, which meets to-morrow, are so confident of his election to the United States Senate that they decline to do any canvassing in his interest.

The Portsmouth Republican delegation to

the New-Hampshire State Convention will vote unaufmously for Wiliam H. Y. Hackett for Governor. Wm. E. Chandler of Concord will also be presented as a caudi-The Illinois Legislature, which meets at

Springfield to-day, is declared by the State press to be fliegal. It is an adjourned session of last year's Legislature, after a recess of eight months, and meets in di-rect violation of the spirit of the Constitution, which provides for biennial sessions only.

Mississippi newspapers report that Senator Amos will resign his seat early this month, and go with his family to Jackson, to prepare for his inauguration as Governor. He will then decide whether he will serve as Governor or be reflected to the Senate. Whether he will do either will depend upon the decision of the Supreme Court of the State upon the constitutionality of his election as Governor.

The Pennsylvania House will meet at noon, and the Senate at 3 p. m. to-day. Nearly all the mem bers of both branches have arrived at Harrisburg. Mr. Strang will probably be elected Speaker of the Senate, and Mr. McCormick of Alleghany County seems to be fixed upon as Speaker of the House. Dr. Shertock of Beaver County, in opposition to Mr. Selfridge, is likely to be elected Chief Cierk of the House.

Both Houses of the General Assembly of Virginia adopted, yesterday, a series of resolutions declaring that the bill now before Congress, known as the Civil Rights bill, is in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, as infringement on the constitutional and legislative pow-ers of the States, sectional in its operation, and injurious alike to the white and colored population of the South ern States, and that the people of Virginia, through the Legislature, earnestly protest against this bill, and in-struct their Senators and request their Representatives in Congress firmly, but respectfully, to oppose its pas-

The new City Council of Philadelphia assembled yesterday. George A. Downing was elected President of the Select Council, and A. Wilson Henszey, President of the (Common Council. The Mayor's mee sage, which was read, calls attention to the Centennial Exposition, and says: "Upon you in a great measure will devolve the duty of making our city worthy the honor that is conferred upon her. Perhaps millions of our own people, and thousands from abroad, will be our gnests upon that occasion, and it behooves us to present an appearance equal, at all events, and, if possible, superior, to any city of the Republic. This can be made an event of such incalculable value to our feilow-citzens, that any failure now will bring lasting and deserved disgrace upon those whose duty it was to secure its success."

PERSONAL

The Rev. Dr. E. C. Hines is lecturing in James E. Harvey, formerly Minister to Portogal, and more recently editor of The Washington Patriot, is to be the editor of The New Age at Philadel-phia.

For 45 years the Rev. E. R. Gilbert has been paster of a church in Wallingford, Conu. He now retires with the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus, an annuity for five years, and the use of the parsonage until it is otherwise needed. Capt. Burton, the African explorer, has dis-

covered at Castillieri, in Istria, some singular edifices, of which he made plans, and which he describes as "the most acceut that he has yet seen." The foundations appear to be more ancient than the "cyclopesa" structures at Mycenai.

Hong Chin Foo, the son of an officer in the Chinese Government, and who has been educated in this country, has taken the lecture platform. He makes his debut in Detroit this week, in three lectures. His sub-lects are Chinese Literature, Science, Art, and Govern-ment; Chinese Manners and Customs, and Confucius.

Bishop Reinkens has issued a reply to the Pope's Encyclical, in which the following passage oc-ours: "The Pope who was most feared, and who was arrounded with the greatest splender on carth, Innosurrounded with the greatest spiendor on earth, Inso-cent III., condemned the English Magna Charta, cursed it, appealed to the heavenly and terreserial powers against it, and struck it with his anothema and inter-dist. Nevertheless, the Magna Charta did not fall; it made the people of England great; and who will say that the English nation has lost its Christianity! Commander Cheyn of the English Royal

Navy, who has already been connected with three Arctic explorations, offers to lead a fresh voluntary expedition if the Government refuses to send out one of its own vessels. He would take a vessel of 150 tons with a crew of 20, but would prefer a three many and the crew of 20, but would prefer a three-masted steamer of 60 horse power, with a crew of 27, and provisions for three years, as he proposes to be away that length of turnile hopes to reach the North Pole in his second year, but will remain a year longer to complete surveys, geological and actentific explorations, dec. He commetes the cost at 212,000.